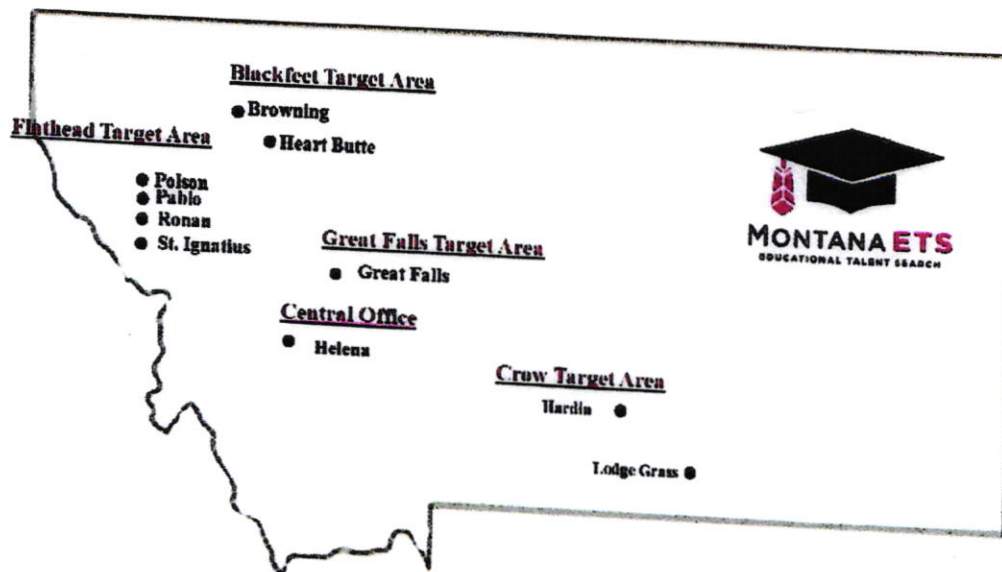




2016-2021 Talent Search Grant Highlights

The Montana Educational Talent Search (METS) Program received funding for another five years of continued services to its annual 1,287 participants. The grant has an annual budget of \$617,760 (\$3,088,800 over the five year span). METS serves schools through four target areas, with a central office in Helena. METS is a college access grant that works primarily with potential first generation, low income 6-12th graders.



In addition to the continued financial literacy, career exploration, and college awareness curriculum, METS will be offering enhanced services this grant cycle:

- This grant focuses on increased tutoring/mentoring services for middle school students and a Certified Nursing Assistance Academy for high school students.
- A new position in the form of a Secondary and Post-Secondary Re-Entry Manager has been hired to work with the program Alumni who have dropped out of post-secondary schools and previous secondary participants that have dropped out of high school. The position works with participants to help guide them back into the education pipeline.
- VISTA Member was recruited to work with METS for the first year of the new grant cycle. The VISTA member will be working with program Alumni and school officials gathering data on student retention factors and factors that lead Alumni to discontinue their post-secondary education. Results will be used to continue to shape how the program interacts with secondary participants and supporting them in their educational needs.